U. S. Economic History
HIUS 141/ECON 159
Spring 2013

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Office Hours: Thursday 1:15 to 3:15, and by appointment

Lecture: CENTR 113
TTH 9:30-10:50

Teaching Assistant
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   Monday: 1:30 to 2:30
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Course Description
The history of the United States version of capitalism is in part the story of natural resources, stock of capital, and labor, but it is also a narrative of the choices made by capitalists, managers, workers, financiers, policymakers, and citizens. Sometimes laboring together and at other times at cross-purposes, they worked to promote economic growth and opportunity while at the same time wrestling with what constitutes a “fair” set of economic, political, and social arrangements. This course will consider the development of the United States economy from WWI to the present.

Required Readings
*Gary M. Walton and Hugh Rockoff, History of the American Economy (10th or 11th edition) For online options go to www.cengage.com/southwestern or see link on Webct.
Jefferson Cowie, Capital Moves: RCA’s Seventy-Year Quest for Cheap Labor
Reader available at University Readers

Requirements
There will be two lectures per week. Students are required to write one paper (5-8 pages) due on 5/23. Late papers will be docked 3% for each day the paper is late. To receive credit for the paper, you must turn in both a hard copy and an electronic version to Turnitin.com—details to follow. The paper will be worth 35% of your course grade. The midterm (5/9) will be worth 30% of your course grade; the final exam 6/11) will be worth 35% of your course grade.

Extra Credit
You can earn extra credit for this course by way of participation in a short debate. In your coursepack and in the syllabus, you will notice mention of several “Debate Documents.” You can earn extra credit by assuming the identity of one of these individuals and giving the class a summary of your background and thoughts on various issues related to the topic at hand. For instance, in Week 9, you could be either Milton Friedman or the CEO of Alcoa and explain your position on the relationship between private industry and the public good. You can work in groups of up to four. Some details on the extra credit assignment:

- On the night before the presentation, each group should turn in a PowerPoint presentation to me as an attachment to an email.
- Presentations should be approximately 10-15 minutes per group and include background information concerning the individual or group you represent as well as your position on the issue outlined in the document. Your group will need to conduct some modest research on the individual or organization you represent. Nothing too taxing—an Internet search should be sufficient.
- Each group will meet with me prior to the debate to discuss their presentation.
- The whole class will have read these documents and there will be an opportunity for the class to ask your group questions following the presentation.
- Successful completion of the assignment will result in a ONE STEP INCREASE in your final grade for the course—i.e. if you end up with an 88% (a B+) for the course and complete the extra credit assignment, your course grade would go from a B+ to an A-.

Debate Topics and Dates
- The Open Shop Debate: The National Association of Manufacturers versus Organized Labor (Lecture #4)
- The Tariff Debate: Herbert Hoover versus the Economists (Lecture #8)
- The New Deal Debate: Hoover versus FDR (Lecture #11)
- Business and the Public Interest Debate: Milton Friedman versus Alcoa CEO (Lecture #16)
This is the only extra credit assignment available for the course. No exceptions.

Course Schedule

Lecture #1: Course Introduction (4/2)
Walton and Rockoff, Chapter One

Lecture #2: The Legacy of Progressive Reform (4/4)
Walton and Rockoff, Chapter 20

Lecture #3 WWI and the Post-War Return to the Gold Standard (4/9)
Walton and Rockoff, Chapter 21

Lecture #4 Post-WWI America: A Society in Turmoil (4/11)

The Open Shop Debate

Lecture #5 Hoovering in the 1920s (4/16)
Walton and Rockoff, Chapter 22

Lecture #6 New Era, New Capitalism (Part II) (4/18)

Lecture #7 Wrap Up New Era, New Capitalism (4/23)

Lecture #8 The Great Depression: Causes, Impact, and Initial Response (Part I) (4/25)
Walton and Rockoff, Chapter 23

The Tariff Debate: Hoover and Congress versus the Economists

Lecture #9 The Great Depression: Causes, Impact, and Initial Response (Part II) (4/30)
Walton and Rockoff, Chapter 24

Lecture #10 The New Deal: Empowered Workers (5/2)
Jefferson Cowie, Capital Moves, Chapter One [Note: You are responsible for the first chapter for the midterm; to complete the paper assignment, you will read the entire book.]

Lecture #11 The New Deal (5/7)
The New Deal Debate: Hoover versus FDR

Mid Term (5/9)

Lecture #12 WWII and some final comments on New Deal reforms (5/14)
Walton and Rockoff, Chapter 25

Lecture 13: WWII and the Great Compression (5/16)

NOTE: We will get started on covering material in these two articles in this lecture, and then revisit these two articles in lecture #17.


Scheduling Notes:
Paper Due on 5/23
Milton Friedman (University of Chicago economist) versus Alcoa CEO Debate on 5/28 (lecture #16)

Readings:
Walton and Rockoff, Chapters 26-28

Lecture 17: The Rediscovery of the Market (5/30)

Recall: We started dealing with these two articles in Lecture #13

Lecture 18: Recent Political Economy: The Housing Bubble and the Giant Pool of Money (6/4)
Joseph Stiglitz, “Mortgage Scam” from Freefall, pages 77-97

Lecture 19: Contemporary Political Economy: The Response to the Most Recent Crisis? (6/6)
Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the instructor's standards. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort; for example:

- No student shall knowingly procure, provide, or accept any unauthorized material that contains questions or answers to any examination or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.
- No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
- No student shall knowingly allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, for himself or herself by another person.
- No student shall plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own work.
- No student shall employ aids excluded by the instructor in undertaking course work or in completing any exam or assignment.
- No student shall alter graded class assignments or examinations and then resubmit them for regrading.
- No student shall submit substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization.

For more information, please consult the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship ([http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/app2.htm](http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/app2.htm)).

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- We affirm the right to freedom of expression at UCSD. We promote open expression of our individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity, confidentiality, and respect.
- We are committed to the highest standards of civility and decency toward all. We are committed to promoting and supporting a community where all people can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of abusive or demeaning treatment.

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